

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatically determining a configuration of an I/O connector panel coupled to a system, the method comprising:
providing information about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel to a memory within the I/O connector panel, prior to connecting one or more peripherals to the I/O connector panel, wherein the I/O connector panel provides different combinations of connectors, wherein each connector provides a connection point between I/O devices and the system;
examining the information in the memory;~~and~~
downloading from a network at least one driver that works with at least one I/O device capable of being supported by the I/O connector panel; and
downloading the at least one driver to the system coupled to the I/O connector panel based upon the examined information.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the downloading step is provided by software that is independent of the type of I/O connector panel.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the system includes a core PC function block that is configured independently of the I/O connector panel.

5-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the information comprises attributes of a type of the I/O connector panel, each connector installed on the I/O connector panel, and attributes of connector logic that links the I/O connector panel to the system.

18. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one driver downloaded from a network comprises a family of drivers, wherein the family of drivers are downloaded at the same time.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
maintaining a table that indicates whether particular drivers have been
downloaded for a given I/O connector panel; and
utilizing the table to determine if any downloads are necessary;

20. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the different combinations of connectors comprise one or more of an Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector, RS232 connector, and an RS485 connector.